



Our Vision

The Unitarian Universalist Church in Idaho Falls is a vibrant and welcoming church home for everyone. With a tradition of thoughtful searching, we are a beacon of truth, love and justice.

Our Mission

Honor the individual's right to religious and spiritual freedom
Minister to each other and the community at large
Nurture the search for truth and meaning
Be a loving and intergenerational community welcoming to all beliefs, races, sexual orientations, ethnicities and gender identities
Improve the quality of life by living our values and working for local and universal justice

Our Covenant

Love is the spirit of this community and service its law. This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

Horizons Newsletter

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH IN IDAHO FALLS

November Worship

November 2019

Sunday Services 10:30am

Nov. 3 "Surviving or Thriving?"

Interim Minister Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler is speaking. Josh Cogliati is the Worship Associate. Bonnie Anderson is the musician.

Are there other reasons to come to Sunday services beyond the important fact that this Beloved Congregation provides a community of people who care about each other's well-being? Are there reasons beyond the fact that it provides a community of like-minded people?

If there aren't other reasons to attend Sunday services, then perhaps you should disband as a Congregation because those needs can be met through other groups, other avenues. Maybe keeping the doors open is not worth the money and effort. However, I am willing to bet that there **are** other reasons why you attend services, reasons enough to keep the doors open, to not disband.

As this Sunday is the start of the 2020 Stewardship Campaign, I'll lift up those other reasons with the intent of enticing you to make a generous financial pledge. I intend to do that in as many ways as I can. Now, wouldn't you just love to know how I plan to entice you?

Nov. 10 "Living in One World with Two Realities"

Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler is speaking. Vic Allen is the Worship Associate. Musica Solanum is performing. Bonnie Anderson is the pianist.

Most of the Western world views life in terms of reality being either it's this way or it's that way and never the two shall meet. Yet the reality is that life is not like that at all. In this reflection I'll share what I think is true and real.

Nov. 17 "Love and Mister Rogers' Neighborhood"

Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler is speaking. Kerry Shirts is the Worship Associate. Jessica Kuipers is our vocalist and pianist.

"*There's Martin Luther King, and there's Gandhi ... and there's Fred Rogers,*" wrote Gene Collier, columnist for Post-Gazette.com in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in his article eulogizing Fred Rogers. Mister Rogers touched the lives of children and adults alike because he spoke so

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Kerry Shirts

simply and eloquently about loving yourself and others. There are probably a few among us whose lives and hearts were touched by this exceptional man. the important and poignant issue of what to do when hearts break – our own and the hearts of others.

On November 22, 2019 the movie “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” with two-time Oscar®-winner Tom Hanks portraying Mister Rogers will open in theaters across the United States. “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” is a timely story of kindness triumphing over cynicism and is based on the true story of a real-life friendship between Fred Rogers and journalist Tom Junod.

In honor of the timeless ideas Fred Rogers offered, in in this service we’ll recall his messages of love, respect and kindness. We do this in order to re-energize our hearts and minds as we are also very aware that today his messages are more relevant than ever before.

Nov. 24 “Is There a Need for Giving Thanks?”

Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler is speaking. Victoria McDonald is the Worship Associate. June Cannon is our musician playing both the flute and piano.

This coming week people in the USA will enter the “season of myths” that runs from Thanksgiving through various religious holidays, including Christmas. Of course, to call Thanksgiving, let alone Christmas, a “myth” will alarm, anger, or alienate some people. But “myth” is a crucial category when trying to catch “sightings” of religion within the flux of society and culture. Myth is an interpretive tool for articulating and analyzing the structure of a people’s lived reality, past or present, rather than a fanciful untrue story. In this service I’ll explore the myths of Thanksgiving.

Special November Services

November 11: “Veteran’s Day Memorial Service” at 6p

Rev. Ziegler officiates for this special service will be held at the War Memorial Plaza on Memorial Drive.

November 20: “Transgender Day of Remembrance” at 6:30 p.m.

We will gather at UUCIF to remember these victims and to offer solidarity with the larger community of vulnerable people.



Preview of Special December Holiday Events and Services

Saturday, December 7: “High Holiday Tea and Potluck Dinner Soiree”

Rev. Ziegler and Sue Wilde invite everyone to this gala event on Saturday, December 7 beginning at 4:30 p.m. at Sue’s beautiful home located at 173 E 24th Street, Idaho Falls.

The soiree will include a performance by Musica Solanum of beautiful holiday music on recorders which go back to the Middle Ages, a show and tell about the instruments, time for community singing of holiday secular songs as well as beloved carols and readings of holiday stories. And, of course, there will be the delicious potluck foods, various English teas and coffee (decaf and regular) to dine on. The soiree is for singles and couples, with or without children. To add to the fun and to create a mood, Rev. Ziegler will wear Victorian period clothing. Everyone is invited to do the same or come in dress-up clothes.

As space is limited, everyone is asked to pre-register. A sign-up sheet will be in the downstairs social hall or you can register through Rev. Ziegler at revziegler369@yahoo.com or by calling her at 208-881-5539. The deadline to register is Thursday evening, December 5. To ensure that we have a variety of food people will be asked to sign up to bring either hors d’oeuvres, a main dish, a side dish or a dessert. Everyone is asked to bring an alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverage to share. We’re asking for a contribute \$2.00 per person or family to cover the cost of incidentals such as the teas and coffees. If you have questions talk to Rev. Ziegler.

Saturday, December 21: “A Contemporary, Contemplative, Winter Solstice Celebration” at 7pm.

Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler along with UUCIF members offer this service. This beautiful service will be held at the church. It offers a more contemporary perspective on the Winter Solstice. There will be readings, drumming, moments of silence, songs, a meditation and a candle-lighting ritual.

Tuesday, December 24: “A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service”

Time to be determined.
This service is offered through the unique perspective that Unitarian Universalism

DREE Office Hours
Thursday: 8:30am—
11am

Office Administrator Hours

Mon. 2:30p – 5:30p
Wed. 2:30 - 5:30pm
Thu. 2:30p – 5:30p

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brings to this Christian holiday celebration. Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler with other members will present a service designed to delight the hearts of the young and old. It will feature sacred and secular readings, special Christmas stories, special Christmas music and lots of carols to sing. We'll end this joyous service with a special candle-lighting ceremony.s

UUCIF's Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon

On Thanksgiving day, we've had for many years community Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon and it is time to start organizing that delicious meal. Beginning with this coming Sunday's service, there will be a sign-up sheet in the social hall letting the organizers know what you'll be bringing. We'll start the feasting at 1 p.m.

Rev. Ziegler **really** needs someone or a few people help organize this luncheon as this is a "first" for her. Contact her at revziegler369@yahoo.com or 208-881-5539.

Search Team Update

Whew! Another month has flown by already, and a lot of hard work has been accomplished by your ministerial search team toward our goal of finding a new settled minister that will be a great match for UUCIF.

The congregational survey feedback has been compiled and summarized. Cottage meeting have been held, and input has been collected and summarized. All this great feedback is being carefully considered as an important component of the matching of our congregation to ministerial applicants when the UUA application process is opened up in January 2020.

Much work and many hours have been applied to complete all of the UUA documentation, questionnaire, congregational records and other miscellaneous material needed to submit a complete search packet to UUA. (due to UUA by Nov 15th)

Liz Marsden is burning up the phone minutes working with various distant UU congregations to arrange neutral pulpits where final candidates can be observed by the search team performing live sermon presentations when that time arrives.

UUCIF web site and social media presence are being reviewed for any needed cleanup and updating to be sure we're looking good and working well for those eyes that will be upon us when candidates start examining the churches that are in search for 2020.

The next critical element is getting the 2020 pledge drive completed and hoping that our 2020 budget will allow us to continue moving forward with the search process come January.



“I can think of several persons in our own congregation who have likewise had to surrender their homes and move forward into the unknown.”

So This Minister Walks into a Congregation and . . .

Interim and Other Ministry Topics

Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler’s Column

Greetings Good People.

We ministers more often than not read each other’s congregation’s newsletter. We do this to stay abreast of what our sister and brother congregations are reflecting on and taking action on. To that end I read my colleague Martin Woulfe’s October newsletter column where he shared that he was preparing to offer his “Odyssey” to his District colleagues. In preparing for this he skimmed through older articles he had written, using them as a window to peer into former insights and challenges he had experienced over his years as a parish minister. He found an article he wrote in November, 2005 and decided to share it as its theme still seemed pertinent.

I am sharing what he wrote (slightly edited) as this is also happening for members in this congregation. He wrote,

“An elderly neighbor of mine held a substantial sale today; she is giving up her house and moving into a retirement home. A stream of strangers rummaged through her dwindling possessions, handling one item after another and asking, “how much?” That scene reminded me of the time . . . when Angela and I were house hunting; we were shown one home that belonged to another elderly widow. She and her late husband had built their house themselves after WWII. But she too was being forced by circumstances to give up that home. As the realtor led us through the house, she followed, like a frail shadow, sharing bittersweet details about the life she had known there. I can think of several persons in our own congregation who have likewise had to surrender their homes and move forward into the unknown. In the news of late one sees many people on the move, refugees from one enormous hurricane after another. Many of us are equally aware of the rising tide of homeless people in our midst, some of whom do have jobs but cannot afford a place to stay. It is evident that many individuals, agencies and corporations are anxious to help, and have been generous in their responses when a severe crisis occurs. But how well do we as a society and as individuals respond to calamities that are less dramatic? There is a popular saying, “It takes a

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village to raise a child.” If true, then surely it also takes a village to care for the infirm, the widowed, the orphaned and the aged. I read recently that the price of heating fuel is expected to shoot up soon. Which begs the question: how will those on fixed incomes manage? Angela has ruefully remarked to me that this is a harsh country to live in if you’re old and poor. Of course, there are poor people throughout the world, and the measure of poverty is relative. And yet, some countries do seem to extend more assistance, and compassion, to their old, infirm and poor. Could our village do more? Sincerely, Rev. Martin Woulfe”

I think this congregation manifests Rev. Woulfe’s idea “it also takes a village to care for the infirm, the widowed, the orphaned and the aged” through its actions to help members who have had to move from their beloved homes of many years, members who need some temporary help, providing rides, etc, and the members of the larger community through its “Change for Change” program.

However, I want to lift- up that this help is organized through the incredibly caring people on UUCIF’s Caring Team. Smooch, smooch, smooch (thank you) to the members of the Caring Team, Lala Chambers, Bill Kohn, Pam Lilburn, John Wike and Rhonda Wike. And a “thank you” too to all of you who respond to their calls for help as well as those who give money generously for our monthly “Change for Change” program.

Well, good people, I look forward to seeing you at UUCIF’s services or events and around town! In the spirit of love, Rev. Jackie

Wanted: Items That Can Be Used as Drums

I will be offering a Contemporary Contemplative Winter Solstice service on Saturday, December 21 at the church and it includes a lot of drumming. This special service will be open to the public. Often people don’t know to bring something that will work as a drum and thus they aren’t able to participate in the drumming as they would probably like to.

In order to increase the possibility that everyone will have a drum to play on, I am asking UUCIF members and friends to save their 1 and 2 pound coffee cans and lids, round Quaker Oats Oatmeal boxes and lids, and anything else that can be used as a drum. When you have some saved, please put them in a bag and give them to me after a service or drop them off in the office. Thanks. ~ Rev. Jackie



**“As we
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News From Upstairs

Elizabeth Cogliati

Save the date! The REE winter pageant will be December 22, during the service. This is a no rehearsal pageant, so just show up on Sunday, December 22, ready to participate in a sweet show about wintertime and the bear who misses the sunshine.

Family Game Night will be Friday, November 15. Come share a fun evening of board games and pizza. Dinner is provided. All are welcome!

A note on Thanksgiving: At the end of November, we celebrate a holiday we call Thanksgiving. This holiday is a lovely time of year for many of us, as we gather around the table for a feast with our loved ones, giving thanks for our lives and blessings. As we celebrate, we must remember that the story of this holiday is based on lies and greed, land theft and murder, not a generous sharing and rescue. A harvest celebration is a lovely thing to have when the gardens are done and before the snow blankets the land. Let us celebrate the harvest, and the end of the warm seasons, remembering that we celebrate on stolen land, and we can build ourselves a true holiday -- a new holy day for our gratitude, tempered with remembrance of past sins. For more information and lots of books to read with children, visit this blog post: <https://booksforlittles.com/>

Impact vs. Intention

Marsha Sanders of UU World

I heard the incoming screams from the far end of the parking lot of the home improvement store. The vehicle swerved crookedly into the lot and abruptly stopped. Someone inside was forcefully hitting the driver for a few frightening moments, and then emerged from the passenger side and fell to the asphalt, continuing to scream.

I drove slowly to the driver's side of the vehicle, and asked the woman weeping behind the steering wheel if she was okay, and asked how I could help. She told me that she was a new respite caregiver for this young man, and did not know what might be triggering his discomfort. Shaken but unhurt, she was calling his parents and would appreciate me waiting with her.

Another man had by this time stopped and gotten out of his truck to see if he could help. I felt immediate relief at having more back-up.

To my naive surprise, upon seeing a large white man walking quickly toward us, unmistakable fear returned to the face of that shaking young black woman in hijab. She screamed, "No! He has autism! Please do not touch us!" She flinched and lifted her hands to her face against this man's approach just as instinctively as she had earlier, when her agitated young charge had been striking her.

Thankfully, the man graciously backed away, hands up in a gesture of peace, drove to another part of the lot and parked, keeping watch.

After parents of the man with autism arrived and he willingly got into their car, his caregiver wept and said to me, "I don't know who scared me more," gesturing to the now-calm young man and then to the other man in the truck still parked across the lot.

Oh, my dear fellow people of privilege. We have more damage to undo than we realize. Even in our efforts to help, we can so easily strike terror in the hearts of our beloveds in the margins. We will not always get it right. But can we strive to have the grace to back away when our presence doesn't feel like safety?

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